

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Old Silk Stocking Historic District

other names/site number 067-323-43000

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by W. Jackson Street on the north, Washington Street on the east, Wildcat Creek on the south, and Phillips Street on the west. N/A not for publication

city or town Kokomo N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Howard code 67 zip code 46901

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination  
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of  
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property - Old Silk Stocking  
Historic District

County and State - Howard, Indiana

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-state  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
250	100	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
250	100	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling  
RELIGION: religious facility  
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:  
manufacturing facility

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling  
RELIGION: religious facility  
RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum  
COMMERCE/TRADE: business

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

See Continuation

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD: Shingle  
STONE: Limestone  
SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more sheets.)

(See Continuations)

Name of Property-Old Silk Stocking Historic District

County and State- Howard, Indiana

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** - Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** - Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** - Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** - Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** - owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** - removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** - a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** - a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** - a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** - a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** - less than 50 years of age or achieved significant within the past 50 years.

### Areas of significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### Period of Significance

1848-1958

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

None

### Architect/Builder

LaBelle, Arthur

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination if individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
- # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property - Old Silk Stocking  
Historic District

County and State- Howard, Indiana

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 110 acres

**UTM References** USGS 1: 24,000 Kokomo West Quadrangle  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6
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5	7	2	4	0	0
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4	4	8	2	2	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

1
---

5	7	3	3	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	8	1	5	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

2 

1	6
---	---

5	7	3	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	8	2	2	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

4 

1	6
---	---

5	7	2	4	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	8	1	5	1	0
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☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Warner

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 5018 Broadway Street telephone 317-283-5450

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46205

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Howard County Historical Society

street & number 1200 West Sycamore Street telephone 765-452-4314

city or town Kokomo state IN zip code 46901

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



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**Section 7 – Continued**

**Architectural Classification**

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire

: Italianate

: Queen Anne

: Romanesque

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

: Tudor Revival

: Neoclassical Revival

: Mediterranean Revival

: Late Gothic Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Prairie School/American Four  
Square

: Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT: Ranch

OTHER: Gable-front

: Cross-gable

: T-plan

**Narrative**

Periods of growth/more intense construction within the district are reflected in the various densities of architectural styles that define/correlate with economic growth and stability. The two styles most prevalent in the district are Queen Anne (with its variations) and American Foursquare, either in single-or double-residence configuration. Other styles represented in varying numbers are: Federal, Second Empire, Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical, Gothic Revival, Craftsman (high-style and common bungalows), early-twentieth century-Revivals (Tudor, Mediterranean, Spanish, Colonial, and Gothic), Ranch, and a mixture of other variants on vernacular styles such as gable-front, cross-gable, or T-plan.

The district is roughly bounded by West Taylor Street on the north, Washington Street on the east, Wildcat Creek on the south, and Phillips Street on the west (photographs 1 through 4). The streets comprising the district are laid out in the standard north-south/east-west grid common to most Indiana towns developed in the same period. The one exception is the traffic circle in the southwest corner of the district at the intersection of Kingston Road and West Superior Street (photograph 5). The topography of the district is generally flat except along a portion of the southern boundary at the north bank of Wildcat Creek (photograph 6).

The sequential development of the district, composed of approximately seven separate additions combined over time, is reflected in the various densities, by age and style, which appear within the district. For example, the 500 and 600 blocks of West Taylor Street are heavily populated with residences in the Queen Anne style, built circa 1890 (photograph 7); the predominance of American Foursquare and Free Classic homes in the blocks between 400 and 1000 West Mulberry and South McCann Streets (photograph 8) suggest heavy development in the 1895-1910 years. The mixture of styles spread along the north and south sides of West

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Sycamore Street in the district suggest two possibilities. The multiplicity of styles along this main thoroughfare might be explained by the more spacious parcels of land associated with early homes on the north side of the street (1875-1900) that were subdivided and new homes of the prevalent style favorites became infill between earlier residences. Secondly, most of the south side of West Sycamore Street, in the district, developed in the first two decades after 1900. The predominance of bungalow-style homes along streets south of West Sycamore Street, such as West Superior Street, also point to development in the 1910s-1920s (photograph 9).<sup>1</sup> There are 250 contributing resources and 100 non-contributing resources. The period of significance is 1848–1958.

1) 511 West Taylor Street

Contributing Photo # 10

1902 American Foursquare/Free Classic

This two-story red brick residence retains its architectural integrity after 106 years. The façade is dominated by a full-width front porch in the first story and a massive gable in the north face of the roof. The front porch is accessed by a short flight of stone steps with black wrought iron railings defining the limits of the steps. The perimeter of the porch deck is defined by five brick half-columns, capped with limestone, interconnected by a wooden balustrade; the low pitched porch roof is supported by round wooden columns. Directly below the eaves of the roof is a course of dentil detailing that accentuates the upper edge of the fascia; a low gable element in the right half of the roof draws attention to the entry way into the house. Above the window openings in the second story is deep frieze board extending across the façade; four large brackets and a course of dentil detailing adorn the frieze board. The same architectural elements are used above the three-unit ribbon window in the large front gable. The tympanum of the gable is sheathed with painted wooden shingles. The window units in the house are double-hung and glazed one-over-one. The entry door is original with panels in the lower half and a light in the upper.

2) 612 West Mulberry Street

Contributing Photo # 11

c. 1910 American Foursquare

The south elevation of this two-story wood-frame residence, painted bright blue, contains three bays – the left bay has the main entry in the first story and a tall narrow window opening in the second; the center and right bays have tall, narrow window openings in both stories. The exterior walls are sheathed in vinyl siding and the deep roof eaves are closed with synthetic materials, metal or vinyl. The full-width front porch, resting on a rough-faced stone foundation, dominates the first story of the façade. The hipped roof of the porch is supported by four tall narrow columns interconnected by a low wooden balustrade with square balusters. A short flight of concrete steps afford access to the wooden porch deck. The window units throughout are double-hung and glazed one-over-one. The pyramid-shaped roof is covered with composition shingle. The main entry is original with wooden sidelight trim and a wooden storm (screen) door. The entry door is wood paneled in the lower half; a plain light fills the upper half.

<sup>1</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, *Kokomo*, 1885-1927, passim.

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- 3) 917 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1920 American Foursquare

Contributing Photo # 12

Painted a soft pink, this two-story wood-frame residence possesses a number of architectural elements unusual to the style. The façade contains a full-width, hipped-roof front porch, exterior walls covered with vinyl siding, and a large front gable in the north face of the hipped main roof. The porch and main block rest on a brick foundation. The short flight of concrete steps to the wooden deck of the porch has brick wing walls and the battered half-columns supporting the porch roof rest on brick half-columns topped with limestone caps. The battered half-columns and the dentil detail are reminiscent of Craftsman styling. The large front gable has a Palladian-inspired window unit centered in its tympanum. Small simple decorative brackets define the lower end of the gable rake. Window units throughout are double-hung. The upper sash is glazed in a 4x4 pattern and the lower is single-glazed. The entry door surround in the right half of the elevation has sidelights, a transom light, and the wooden door is glazed with multiple lights in its length.

- 4) 819 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1920 American Foursquare

Contributing Photo # 13

Although this residence has experienced a few alterations over time its basic architectural integrity is intact in the spatial relationship of various elements of the style and the original materials. The exterior walls, probably clapboard siding originally, are covered now in metal siding and the support posts for the shed roof of the front porch are modern metal. The fenestrations remains original with a three-sash unit in the first story left of the entry door and two-paired units in the upper story. The window units throughout the house, including the low-profile dormer in the front slope of the two-pitch pyramid roof, have unusual triangular panes in the upper sashes of the double-hung windows. The door surround for the main entry door off the porch has two sidelights, glazed in the same patterns as other windows in the house. The entry door is original with wooden rails, a large central single-glazed light, and a panel at the bottom.

- 5) 600 West Walnut Street  
c. 1910 American Foursquare

Non-contributing Photo # 14

This two-story house has lost all of its architectural integrity and therefore fails to support the contextual fabric of the historic district.

- 6) 529 West Taylor Street  
c. 1895 Queen Anne

Contributing Photo # 15

As an example of a high-style Queen Anne residence, this house demonstrates an extremely high degree of architectural integrity. Starting with the wrap porch on the ground floor extending upward with the drop siding on the exterior walls (accentuated with a liberal use of wooden shingles and some half-timbering) to the stepped gables of the slate-covered, irregularly-shaped roof, this house captures many of the characteristics common to the style. Included in the list are an asymmetrical turreted front porch detailed with brackets and dentils; textured wall surfaces combining half-timbering and wooden shingles in the prominent gables; simple door and



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window surrounds; and art glass panes at the very top of the gable ends. The other windows in the house are standard double-hung units, single-glazed in both sashes. An unusual feature is a closed portion of the front porch that mimics a sun-room of a later period; if not original to the structure, this element is certainly period from its construction and materials. The storm door to the enclosed section is obviously modern.

7) 622 West Mulberry Street  
c. 1890 Queen Anne

Contributing Photo # 16

Although in a poor state of maintenance, this Queen Anne home retains many architectural elements of the style that would be more common to a working-class family. The wrap porch that dominates the first floor of the facade includes a wooden deck, a plain wooden railing that connects the decorative chamfered posts supporting the hipped roof. Brackets, pendants, and a spindle work frieze upgrade an otherwise very simple porch. The exterior walls are red brick in the first story and the second story walls have a deteriorating covering of simulated-brick-impressed asphalt shingle squares. Visible at various points, the second story walls, under the insensitive covering, are likely sheathed in wooden clapboards with sections of angled bead board to texture the exterior walls of the second story. With the exception of a few in the second story, the double-hung window units are original and glazed one-over-one; a small fixed-sash light is positioned in the peak of the front gable. The entry doors are original with a wooden panel in the lower one-fourth and a single-glazed light in the upper three-fourths of their lengths; each has a transom light above the doorway.

8) 814 West Mulberry Street  
1895 Queen Anne

W. B. Smith House

Contributing Photo # 17

A massive front dormer and a flared porch roof dominate this otherwise simply designed two-story frame house. The exterior walls are covered with drop siding. A short flight of concrete steps provides entry to the wooden porch deck. The porch roof is supported by four round half-columns resting on short rough-faced stone piers; a plain wooden railing interconnects the support columns to form the perimeter of the porch. The roof of the porch and the main block of the home are sheathed with polychrome slate shingles. The front gable combines a number of architectural elements such as the use of vertical boards with an impressed circular design in the lower end superimposed on the horizontal siding, spindle work in the gable end, and pendant-like ornamentation on the rake of the gable and on the lower edge of the fascia board. The window units in the first story are casement style and glazed in a 2 x 9 pattern in each half. The windows in the second story are also casement, single-glazed and obscured by multi-paned storm windows. The three-sash casement window unit in the front dormer is single-glazed and also obscured by multi-paned storms. The double entry doors are wooden and original to the house.

9) 824 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1900 Queen Anne

William Turner House Non-contributing Photo # 18

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Little of the architectural integrity of a Queen Ann residence remains in this house. The replacement metal siding and the massive replacement porch across the full width of the façade destroy the visual image expected of this style home.

10) 520 West Mulberry Street  
1848-49 Federal

Lindsay House

Contributing Photo # 19

Acknowledged as the oldest house in the city, the small painted brick building suffers from some loss of integrity through a replacement window and a door/door surround. However, the fenestration appears to be original and the basic construction materials have not been replaced. The first story of the two-story building contains a single small window to the left of the centered entry way of the façade and a larger window to the right of the entry. The second story has two windows each left and right of the house centerline. The small windows are double-hung and single-glazed. The window units are protected by modern storm windows. The larger window unit to the right of the door has replacement glazing of modern materials. The door and the entire door surround are modern in design and materials. There are star anchors visible in the exterior wall, positioned between the first and second story. The low-pitched roof is clad with composition singles.

11) 600 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1920 Mediterranean Revival

Kautz House

Contributing Photo # 20

Common to many residences of this style the Kautz House is a two-story, square-footprint structure with a tile roof and arched window openings; unlike others of this style, the exterior walls are red brick rather than stucco. There is a paucity of wrought iron, balconies, or an asymmetrical façade. The façade is symmetrical with wings extending out from the right and left limits of the main block. The arched window openings in the first story have limestone inserts at the top of the opening. Each insert is decorated with a cartouche-like element surrounded with a floral design carved into the surface. Each one-story wing contains a large multi-pane window; the window surround consists of short limestone columns on each side with a limestone lintel extending across the top of the opening. The window units in the first story of the main block are double-hung and glazed eight-over-twelve; the units in the upper story are also double-hung but glazed eight-over-eight. The main entry is recessed from the plane of the façade. The doorway is framed by limestone columns with Ionic capitals supporting a limestone lintel that forms the floor for a small decorative balcony above the entry opening; a low wrought-iron railing marks the perimeter of the balcony. The reveal of the arched recessed entry are lined with wooden coffering. The tall wooden door is protected from the weather by a modern aluminum storm door. The inner door is wrought iron with an open pattern of squares and curlicue details backed by a solid glass light.

12) 524 West Sycamore Street  
1875 Second Empire

Haskett-Jay House

Contributing Photo # 21

This two-and one-half-story house, the single example of the style in the district, demonstrates many of the classic Second Empire architectural features such as the mansard roof

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with dormer windows, molded cornices, and decorative brackets present under the eaves. The Haskett House represents one of the approximately 30% of the style that features a square tower centered in the façade. This tower separates the south elevation into three bays – the tower being the center bay and it's flanked by visually symmetrical bays. Resting on a stone foundation, the exterior walls are red brick which contrasts dramatically with the white-painted trim that highlights the many architectural features; the lower slope of the roof is slate-clad. Shallow one-story bays project out from the west and east elevations. The left bay, rounded in the first story, contains windows (with limestone sills) in each of the three stories; a large, double-hung, single-glazed (leaded glass in the upper sash) unit in first story, an arched double-hung single-glazed unit accentuated with a prominent hood mould (that is an element of the intermediate cornice) in the second story, and a square, three-sash, multi-paned unit in the third story immediately below the projecting cornice of the slate roof. The first story of the right bay contains a rounded wrap porch the visually mimics the left bay. The porch, extending from the left margin of the tower to the right limit of the main block, has a flat roof supported by tapered wooden columns; a low wooden railing with square balusters marks the perimeter of the porch deck between the supports columns. A white-painted wooden belt course, separating the first and second stories in the left bay and acting as the frieze board of the porch in the right bay, extends across the entire façade. The window units in the right bay are the same design and construction as already described.

The four-story square tower in the center bay contains the main entry door in the first story, windows in the second and third story, and a four-sided, bell-cast, and slate-clad roof. A tall, narrow wooden storm door protects the inner door that has a tall single-glazed light in the upper portion and a wooden panel in the lower. A transom light caps the surround. The paired window unit in the second story is double-hung and glazed one-over-one. The third story of the tower has two different types of windows – the lower is a three-sash casement unit and the upper windows are fixed-sash lights with curved muntins. A decorative architrave immediately above the fixed-sash lights marks the separation between the tower walls and the base of the tower roof. Several tall brick chimneys extend up from the slightly hipped main roof.

13) 530 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1920 Colonial Revival

Brand-Way House

Contributing Photo # 22

Just west of the Haskett House and built on a portion of that property's original lot, this two-story brick home offers the opportunity for direct comparison between the elaborately detail Second Empire-style of the 1870s and the low-key, clean lines of a Colonial Revival home of the 1920s. The house is positioned with the façade facing east and a side elevation facing the street. The symmetrical façade has a central entry point, double-hung windows on either side of the main door and three windows in the second story. The window units are glazed six-over-six. The surround for the main door projects forward of the plane of the exterior wall and includes a decorative balcony above the doorway; a low metal railing defines the limits of the balcony. The door is protected from weather by a small, vaulted, and copper-covered roof supported by two large wooden brackets. The side elevation facing the street includes a tall, angular brick chimney, a narrow porch with arched openings, and two windows. On each side of the chimney are quarter-lights in the attic level. The steeply pitched roof is clad with composition shingles.

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14) 531 West Mulberry Street  
c. 1920 American Foursquare

Contributing Photo # 23

The façade of this two-story brick demonstrates classic high-style American Foursquare styling with its massive one-story, full-width porch, wide eaves, limestone detailing, and its pyramid-shaped, tile-clad roof. The left side of the front porch is enclosed to create additional living space.; the right side provides access to the concrete deck up a short flight of stairs. The hipped porch roof is supported by large square brick columns at the left and right limits. Window units throughout are double-hung and glazed one-over-one; in the upper story of the façade the window units are paired. The tall chimney on the east elevation has limestone detail at the shoulders and around the throat near the top. A small one-story bay extends out from the east elevation to the rear of the chimney.

15) 620-622 West Taylor Street  
c. 1895 T-plan

Non-contributing Photo # 24

Changes made to the façade and other elevations of this house have detracted from its architectural integrity to an extent it no longer contributes to the fabric of this district.

16) 204 Kingston Road R. L. Young House  
c. 1915 Craftsman and Garage (2 Buildings)

Contributing Photos # 25 -26

This residence is the best example of the style in the district and has an extremely high degree of architectural integrity. According to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of the period, this portion of the district was fully developed in the first decades of the twentieth century and offers many examples of popular styles of the time. The full-width front porch and the exterior walls of the first story are red brick; the upper one-and one-half story is clad in wooden shingles. The front slope of the porch roof is supported by clusters of three small brick columns resting on the ends of a solid brick balustrade. There is an inset three-window-unit shed dormer centered in the same front slope of the main steeply pitched roof. The window units in the façade, both stories, are casement in design and have divided lights in each half. There are several small double-hung window units in the rear of the house. A small shingle-clad bay extends out from the west elevation over an entry door at grade level in this elevation; a low wooden railing around the top of the bay accentuates the top of the bay. A tall brick chimney adds to the visual sense of height associated with this house. This door has side lights and a wood-paneled door with small divided lights in the upper one-fourth. The main entry door off the porch is constructed in the same manner. An original single-car garage is located to the rear (south) of the main house. The one-story garage's exterior walls are painted and sheathed in clapboard siding on the lower one-half and shingles in the upper one-half. The roofline has a series of raised sections at each corner resembling the crenellations of an embrasure topping a castle wall. The original wooden roll-up door has a band of six single-glazed lights extending across the top of the door. The remainder of the door surface is a 3x6 pattern of recessed panels.

17) 1201 West Superior Street  
c. 1905 Bungalow

Contributing Photo # 27

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This small one-story bungalow, across the street from its high-style Craftsman relative, has a high degree of architectural integrity. The exterior walls, resting on a rough-faced block foundation, are clad with drop wooden siding, the front porch is original, and the pyramid-shaped roof is uncommon in the neighborhood. The small wooden porch has a short flight of preformed concrete steps leading to a wooden deck. Two short wooden columns mark the entry to the porch and establish the ends of a low wooden balustrade with square balusters that forms the perimeter of the porch. The hipped roof of the porch is supported at two corners by tapered wooden columns with Ionic capitals. A shallow bay clad with wooden shingles projects from the east elevation. Window units throughout are double hung and glazed one-over-one. Many of the original windows have original storm window. The entry door off the porch has a surround of half-columns that mirror the porch roof supports. The original door has a large single-glazed light and wooden panel in the lower portion.

18) 523 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1900 Gable-front

Non-contributing Photo # 28

From its size and style this small one-story home was likely an early occupant of the neighborhood but major changes to the fenestration and other architectural elements has compromised its integrity and it no longer contributes to the fabric of the district.

19) 421 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1920 Craftsman

Contributing Photo # 29

Resting on a foundation of rough-faced blocks, this one-and one-half-story brick residence captures a numbers of the design elements of the style in spite of the covering of the exterior walls and eaves in vinyl siding. The full-width, engaged front porch, accessed by a short flight of limestone steps anchored by low limestone wing walls, has a side-gabled roof with unusual twin gable dormers. The forward slope of the roof is supported by two brick columns; one at either end of a low brick balustrade. The balustrade and the columns are capped with limestone. The window units in the first story are casement in design with original storm windows present. The upper story has smaller casement units of a different design with the upper portion of the sashes having six smaller panes. The entry door surround includes sidelights and the door is wood-paneled with a band of small lights in the upper portion.

20) 403-405 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1895 Folk Victorian (Double)

Non-contributing Photo # 30

The presence of a limestone portion of foundation indicates this oddly constructed house was likely one of the earliest in the neighborhood. The basic elements of the building have been altered to an extent any previous architectural integrity has been compromised. Replacement windows, doors, exterior wall coverings, and major changes to the spatial arrangement of the façade negate any possible contribution to the fabric of the district.

21) 1106 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1890 Folk Victorian

Contributing Photo # 31

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The foundation of this two-story wood-frame house is limestone block. The two-story porch is obviously an alteration to the basic form of the style but from the condition of the drop siding of the exterior walls it appears the modification is not recent. The façade lacks a true front porch and access to the interior of the house is provided by a short flight of concrete steps. The width of the drop siding of the main block and the altered porch are slightly different. The gable ends in three of the elevations are shingle clad; the front gable has a square fixed-sash window with a single pane centered in the sash and smaller art glass panes on either side. Window surrounds throughout the house are plain wood with no drip caps. The window units are double-hung and glazed one-over-one. The entry door is not period but dates from the 1920s.

22) 538 West Taylor Street  
c. 1895 Queen Anne

Contributing Photo # 32

This two-story Queen Anne home is one of many high-style examples of the style that appear along both sides of West Taylor Street which no doubt helped to give rise to the name of the district. With the exception of vinyl siding on the exterior walls the house retains a very high degree of integrity. The roof of the wrap porch is supported by turned posts resting on the porch's wooden deck. A short flight of wooden steps provide access to the porch. The facade includes a second-story, polygonal tower in left half of the elevation extending upward from the roof of the front porch. A weathervane finial caps the tower roof. The gable ends include half-timbering detail immediately above small paired fixed-sash lights. With the exception of a large single glazed picture window in the front elevation, the window units throughout the house are original, double-hung, and glazed one-over-one. The original entry door off the porch has a single-glazed light in the upper half and is wood paneled in the lower half.

23) 606 West Mulberry Street  
c. 1870 Italianate

Contributing Photo # 33

Without many of the elaborate design features of later Italianate homes, this small one-and one-half-story residence still captures a few of the early elements of the style in the tall narrow windows, the arched light in the gable peak, and the support posts for the flat roof of the brick portico. A low, wooden railing marks the perimeter of the portico roof. The window openings have limestone lintels and sills. The units are double-hung sashes with four-over-four glazing. Centered in the half story above the portico is a period door with two arched lights; the door opening has a limestone lintel and sill. The main entry door has a single-glazed light in the upper half and a wooden panel in the lower.

24) 618 West Walnut Street  
c. 1895 Queen Anne

Contributing Photo # 34

Less elaborate in design than others in the neighborhood, this two-story residence makes up for this difference through the use of varied texture to the exterior surfaces, the use of different designs in half-timbering, and a bell cast roof on the one-story bay on the east elevation. The roof of the wrap porch is supported by turned wooden posts resting on the deck; a segmental frieze board connects the tops of the support posts. The clapboard siding, the half-timbering, and the

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wooden shingles in the gable ends are original. The shingle on the house/porch roof is a modern material manufactured to give the appearance of actual slate cladding. The window units, covered by modern storms, are double-hung and glazed one-over-one. Behind the modern storm doors are original or period wooden doors with large single-glazed lights.

- 25) 320 West Walnut Street      Sweeney Apartments      Contributing Photo # 35  
c. 1905 Neoclassical

One of a number of multi-occupant buildings in the district, "The Sweeney" offers the benefits of being located near downtown courthouse square but being surrounded by a residential neighborhood. Shaped in a shallow "U" with the main entry in the base, the polychrome brick exterior walls contrast well with the use of tall limestone columns at the corners of the building and limestone dentils and belt course of the architrave that circles this three-story building below the low parapet at the top of the structure. The fenestration is original to the building but the glazing, materials and design, is more modern. The main entry is protected from weather by a canvas canopy supported on a metal frame. The door surround consists of broad limestone pilasters supporting a limestone lintel on which the words "The Sweeney" are carved. Above the door surround is an elaborate two-story-high, arched window unit incorporating three tiers of fixed sash lights combining art glass in arched muntins in the top and bottom tiers and stucco material in the center tier; a transom-like tier of stucco material tops the unit. The spandrels of the arch around the central window are formed with corbelled brick and the multi-coursed arch with label hood is accentuated with a decorative key. The main door is wooden with sidelights.

- 26) 314 West Walnut Street      Contributing Photo # 36  
c. 1885 Italianate

One of only a few Italianate homes in the district, this two-story, painted brick building displays many of the basic architectural characteristics of the style that was popular in late-nineteenth-century Indiana. The footprint of the house includes a shallow wing on the east elevation which gives the visual image of an asymmetrical façade. The roof of the wrap porch is supported by turned posts with decorative filigreed brackets at the juncture of the porch frieze and the top of the posts. The tall narrow window openings are defined by plain limestone lintels and sills painted a contrasting color; small decorative brackets appear below the sills. Window units are double-hung sash with one-over-one glazing. Above the upper window openings is a frieze board that wraps the building directly below a simple projecting cornice of the hipped roof. Modern storm doors protect the wooden inner doors from the weather.

- 27) 300 West Walnut Street      Non-contributing Photo # 37  
c. 2000 Modern

This modern business building fails to meet the criteria to contribute to this district.

- 28) 423-425 West Walnut Street      Contributing Photo # 38  
c. 1910 American Foursquare (Double)

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This two-story, painted-brick, multi-occupant building is the only one of its kind in the district. The façade is divided into two bays by three tall full-height brick pilasters that also support the second-story porch and the roof. The entrances to the upper and lower apartments are positioned in the lower left corner of the left bay. The first story of the right bay contains an enclosure that in other examples of the style would be the front porch. Window units in the first story are double-hung and glazed three-over-one, a variant found in bungalows of the period. The three-sash unit in the upper story is double-hung and the sashes are single-glazed. The second story porch has a low wooden railing with flat balusters. The entry doors in the first story have wooden, multi-paned storm doors. The inner doors have single-glazed lights in their upper portions. A low profile dormer with a fixed-sash window is positioned on the front slope of the hipped roof.

29) 701 West Walnut Street  
c. 1910 No Discernible Style

Non-contributing Photo # 39

This altered garage has no architectural significance and offers nothing to the fabric of the district.

30) 821 West Mulberry Street  
c. 1920 Craftsman

Contributing Photo # 40

While this two-story house possesses many of the architectural characteristics of the style, the presence of the massive dormer extending forward over the front porch is not a common variant. The exterior walls are clad with vinyl siding but the peaks of the gables are clad with shingles more in keeping with the Queen Anne style. The front porch has two large square brick columns that support the roof of the porch and the dormer extension; a low brick balustrade connects the two columns. The gables of the roof on the main block and the dormer are hipped with jerkin head corners. A small sun room with multiple narrow double-hung window units, four per wall on the east and north sides, occupies the first floor east of the front porch. Decorative exposed rafter ends provide additional detail. Window units vary in size and type; a few of the original units have been replaced. The dining room window in the east elevation consists of a fixed-sash center light (with a transom light above) with smaller double-hung sashes on either side. Other units around the house are standard double-hung sashes with single glazing. The panes in the window in the front dormer are etched in a quatrefoil pattern. The surround of the original main entry door includes sidelights and a transom light. The sidelights have multiple panes, squares and a diamond-shaped center detail, held in place by curved muntins. The door has a single-glazed center light.

31) 1221 West Superior Street  
c. 1910 Bungalow

Contributing Photo # 41

This one-story front gabled bungalow is similar in general style to many in this portion of the district south of West Sycamore Street that was developed in the first two decades of the twentieth century. The gabled front porch roof is supported by two short, square wooden columns resting on square brick columns that form the ends of a wooden balustrade with square balusters.



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A short flight of wooden steps with a wooden railing provide access to the deck of the porch. The vinyl-clad exterior walls rest on a brick foundation. The window units throughout the house are double-hung and glazed either five-over-one or six-over-one depending on the size of the unit. The outer security door is metal and of modern design. The inner door is wooden with divided lights in the top half. The gable roof is sheathed in composition shingles and two tall brick chimneys penetrate the roof.

32) 1215 West Maple Street  
c. 1985 Modern

Non-contributing Photo # 42

This house does not meet the age requirement to contribute to the district nor does it possess any architectural significance.

33) 1016 West Maple Street  
c. 1905 Cottage

Contributing Photo # 43

This pyramid-roofed cottage is one of the earlier homes built on this street in the first decade of the twentieth century and its simplicity of design is found in a number of examples in this addition. The spatial arrangement on the front porch is likely correct but most of the elements of the porch such as the deck, turned posts, and railing are replacements for the original. The exterior walls are clad with metal siding. The window units are double-hung and glazed one-over-one. A small fixed-sash light is visible in the top portion of the front gable. The slate-shingle pattern of roof covering is modern. A wooden storm door protects the inner wooden entry door that has a large single-glazed light in the upper portion and a wood-paneled lower portion.

34) 1216-18 West Sycamore Street  
c. 1925 Tudor Revival

Elliott House  
& Stan Mohr Library

Contributing Photos # 44-45

Originally built in the Queen Anne style in the 1890s, the Elliott House became a Tudor-style home in the late 1920s when its owner decided to remodel in a more up-to-date design. While the Queen Anne cross-gabled roofline, front gable, cutaway bays, and the double-hung windows common to that style remain, the exterior cladding of stucco and half-timbering are purely Tudor architectural elements found in all the high-style examples of the type. The upper sashes of the current window units have muntins and multi-paned glazing in the Tudor style and the lower sashes remain single-glazed. The roof of the front wrap porch extends around the west elevation of the façade to become the roof of the porte-cochere that offers protected entry through a secondary entrance in the west elevation. The clustered square posts that support the roof of the drive through rest on a low brick wall capped with limestone. True to the Tudor style, the front door is paneled solid wood with simple black metal hardware.

The original carriage house associated with the Elliott home, constructed circa 1895, is now the Stan Mohr Library operated by the local historical society. The exterior walls are a combination of red brick in the first story with stucco and half-timbering in the second story. Original segmental-arched window openings in the four elevations are glazed with modern materials and the sills are limestone. Windows in the upper story are multi-paned and double-hung. The main entry in the south elevation has a modern double door and sidelights.

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35) 1200 West Sycamore  
1890 Combination

Seiberling Mansion  
& Carriage House

Contributing Photo # 46-47

The Seiberling Mansion is currently entered in the National Register of Historic Places. Designed by architect Arthur LaBelle using a combination of the Neo-Jacobean and Romanesque Revival styles, the mansion has withstood years of use in a remarkable fashion and retains a very high degree of architectural integrity. Nominated in 1971, the mansion demonstrates various design elements of the two styles in its exterior walls of rough stone and brick, strong Romanesque arches that support the porch roof and cap the windows, and two large circular bays that suggest the bases of medieval towers. Jacobethan or Jacobean influences include elaborate brick work, a front-facing tower that dominates the façade, and tall decorative chimneys.

The west elevation of the two-story brick carriage house located to the north of the mansion has the appearance of an early Georgian house with its central entry, flanked by symmetrical window openings in the first story and a bank of windows across the width of the second story. Unlike a Georgian fenestration scheme, this building has a small personnel door in the right corner of the façade. The one-time carriage entry consists of tall, wooden, double doors with divided lights. Above the first story window openings and the carriage door, are decorative brick arches with limestone keys and spandrel detail that resemble the Romanesque arches in the house. Window units are double-hung with two-over-two glazing.

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**Section 8 — Statement of Significance**

The Old Silk Stocking Historic District reflects, in many of its residential properties, a period of economic growth in Kokomo's past that lasted for more than three decades; the district serves as a living canvas depicting the popular architectural styles of the period. The name of the district, chosen by a group of its inhabitants in the 1970s, appears to stem from the "silk stockings" worn by gentry during Indiana's Gas Boom-era in the late 1880s and early 1890s with the obvious connotation that folks living here were members of the wealthy upper crust of Kokomo's citizens. Some homes in the district were constructed during this period of instant wealth and others demonstrate the legacy of prosperity, buttressed by many factories and varied industries, which operated in Howard County for decades following the collapse of the natural gas boom in the early 1890s.<sup>1</sup>

The district is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; in particular, the initial platting and further development of a significant residential area within the greater Kokomo community that resulted from the economic/industrial residue of the natural gas boom. The district is also eligible under Criterion C in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction; the district contains a collection of residential buildings that reflect the changing architectural tastes and the distinctive characteristics of 17 architectural styles popular during the period of significance. There are 250 contributing buildings and 100 non-contributing buildings in the district. The period of significance is 1848–1958.

In 1816, when the first state constitution was written in Corydon, counties had been formed near to, and along, the Ohio and Wabash rivers, but much of Indiana remained unorganized. Consecutive Indian treaties established various reservations that opened some areas for limited white settlement and, eventually, land sales to incoming settlers. Vincennes, Indiana, had the first land office. In the 1830s and 40s, the Pottawatomie and Miami tribes were "removed" from these lands and white settlement began in earnest.

The decade of the 1840s witnessed many changes in Indiana's central region. In 1840, the Miami tribe sold the area known as the "Miami Reserve" for the \$550,000.00; the reserve contained three sections of land in future "Richardville County" that included the future site of Kokomo. In 1842, two years before the county was organized, David Foster moved from his trading post on Pete's Run, in the same township, to an area north of Wildcat Creek. Foster opened a trading post near the banks of the creek, and officially became the area's first entrepreneur. Organized in early 1844, the county was named in honor of Jean Baptiste Richardville, a prominent chief of the local Miami tribe. Later in 1844, a five-man commission negotiated with the owner of a parcel of land, central to the rest of the county, that they believed would serve their purpose "to fix the seat of justice." According to one account, the land chosen by the commission was "a thick forest of immense trees and thicket ... through which a bird could scarcely fly." David Foster, the owner of the land, finally reached accord with the

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<sup>1</sup>For an overview of the Gas Boom, see James A. Glass and David Kohrman, *The Gas Boom of East Central Indiana* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005).

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commissioners. Partially based on the fact Foster donated 40 acres for that purpose, Kokomo became the county seat. Soon after their decision, a surveyor platted the first 100 lots which went on sale 18 October 1844; 29 lots were sold the first day at a price of \$30.00 each. Charles Ellison, an early arrival, opened the first saloon/domicile at the corner of North Main and Sycamore Streets (outside the district).<sup>2</sup>

The derivation of the county seat's name remains a mystery. Various sources consulted offered the following alternative myths. One noted that Kokomo translated from a local Indian dialect as "she bear"; another source claimed it meant "black walnut" and may be was associated with an Indian chief named *Black Walnut*, a third source thought the name meant "chief of bears." A fourth source related that the name was derived from MA KO KO MO, an Indian name probably from the Miami tribe. It is obvious that the name came from a local Indian dialect and meant something about trees or bears.<sup>3</sup>

In 1846, partly because the county's name did not trip lightly from the lips, a four-man delegation (included David Foster) traveled to Indianapolis to advocate changing the county name. The legislature chose to honor a well-liked but deceased state politician, Tilghman A. Howard, to acknowledge the Hoosier's past service to the state and the nation. Howard, a transplanted Tennessean who once worked for Sam Houston, moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in 1830. He served as a district attorney for the state, as a state representative to the U.S. Congress, one time ran for Indiana governor's office, and finally, as the Charge d'Affaires to the Republic of Texas in the early 1840s. He died in Texas in 1844 and his remains are buried in Rockville, Indiana.<sup>4</sup>

A new name may have changed local perception of the tiny settlement but real change required lots of hard work and a view for the needs of the future. The first state roads constructed in the county connected Kokomo with both Michigantown and Peru. By 1846, travel to Peru offered limited access to the external world via the Wabash & Erie Canal but the canal was a short-term solution. The Panic of 1837 and the subsequent financial uncertainty throughout the country put a damper on funding. As a result, canal building in Indiana foundered for a number of years and did not truly have a positive impact on central Indiana's economy until the early 1850s when completion of the waterway to the Ohio River opened the way to markets down the Mississippi River.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Charles Blanchard, ed., *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana* (Chicago: F.A. Battey & Company, 1883), 44-48 and 146; Kingman Brothers, *Combination Atlas Map of Howard County, Indiana* (Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1877), 15; Fred C. Odiet, *Kokomo-Howard County Sesquicentennial Commemorative Book* (Self-published, 1994), 128.

<sup>3</sup> Kingman Brothers, *Combination Atlas Map*, 15; Clipping File, Howard County, at the Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis, Indiana; Blanchard, *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana*, 146.

<sup>4</sup> Blanchard, *Counties of Howard and Tipton*, 50; Odiet, *Sesquicentennial Commemorative Book*, 7; Ned Booher, *Howard County: A Pictorial History* (Virginia Beach, Virginia: The Donning Company, 1994), 26.

<sup>5</sup> John Warner, "The Influence of the Wabash and Erie Canal on the Development of Two Northern Indiana Communities, 1830-1860" (Indianapolis: Master's Thesis, Indiana University, 1996), 12-15; Blanchard, *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana*, 49.

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As early as 1832, an act to incorporate the Madison, Indianapolis & Lafayette Railroad was approved in the legislature. Collectively, the state embarked on an infrastructure improvement plan in 1836 that encompassed canals, roads, and railroads. The Massive Internal Improvements Plan called for a single rail line from Madison, on the Ohio River, through Indianapolis, the recently occupied state capitol, and on to Lafayette on the Wabash River. This first successful attempt at creating a transportation infrastructure linked two major waterways, three developing commercial centers, and the anticipated future wealth of the agricultural bounty of Indiana's central plain.<sup>6</sup>

Railroad ventures such as this opened the door to further expansions in rail transportation throughout the state. The Peru & Indianapolis Railroad received its state charter to operate in January 1846. After a period of organization, the enterprise began to clear land for a right-of-way and sought funding for the continued expansion. In 1850, the Howard County board of commissioners subscribed for \$4,000.00 worth of stock in the railroad. The original purpose of this particular rail line was connection between the Ohio River and the Wabash & Erie Canal at Peru. Eventually further expansion and consolidation with other routes opened the way for extension to Chicago. Steady progress in construction resulted in tracks reaching Kokomo in 1853.<sup>7</sup>

Agricultural advancements came slowly in the antebellum era. While most settlers were still subsistence farmers, over time they increased the acreage under plow and began to have some surplus crops to sell. Although agricultural production and methods began to change and improve over this period, and pioneer cabins were slowly replaced with more substantial dwellings, the typical farmstead of the 1840s was not much different from its 1800 counterpart. The fields, where the primary crops of corn, oats, wheat, rye, and potatoes grew, required extensive de-stumping and tiling to drain the often boggy soil. The massive amount of timber cut down to clear these fields became the lumber produced by several saw mills in the locale that drew their power from Wildcat Creek. After local needs were met for construction of the growing number of frame buildings in town, area factories eventually produced barrel heads and staves for a soon-to-be-established meat-packing operation.<sup>8</sup>

Kokomo and Howard County progressed steadily through the late 1840s and 1850s. Henry C. Stewart established a brickyard near the corner of High and Buckeye Streets in 1847. When the neighborhood changed to residential, Stewart moved his brickyard operation further west to a location near Webster and Walnut Streets (site in the district). County commissioners directed in 1844 that "ten percent from the sale of lots in Kokomo" be paid to the "treasurer of the county library," for the purchase of books. These funds increased over the years and circa 1850,

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<sup>6</sup> James A. Madison, *The Indiana Way* (Bloomington: IU Press, 1986), 83-86; Indiana Historical Society, Pamphlet "An Act to Incorporate the Madison, Indianapolis & Lafayette Railroad Company", 1832.

<sup>7</sup> Blanchard, *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana*, 51; Booher, *Howard County: A Pictorial History*, 45.

<sup>8</sup> Jackson Morrow, *History of Howard County, Indiana* (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1910), 197 and 226.

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local history relates, the first books were purchased by Dr. Corydon Richmond, the second mayor of Kokomo. The town applied for incorporation in 1855 with a population of 600 citizens.<sup>9</sup>

Both in the small towns and in the countryside, schools and churches formed an integral part of community in central Indiana. When Indiana became a state in 1816, the first state constitution called for any proceeds from the sale of Section 16 in each township to be applied to supporting for common schools.

Although Hoosiers were slow to create an efficient free public school system, schools were among the first bastions of community to spring up wherever Hoosiers settled. Usually these schools were subscription based, with parents paying a fee in goods or cash for their children to attend. Kokomo's first school, located on Washington Street (outside the district) north of the creek, began operation in 1845 with three teachers in attendance. During the period 1848-1856, the various townships sold its Section 16 to fund the development of its own school corporation. The individual corporations, administered by the township trustee and a school superintendent, provided the facilities, the teachers, and in later years, continuing education. By 1875, the county had 100 schools in operation — 98 for white students, 2 for African American students — supported by 132 teachers.<sup>10</sup>

Spiritual strength served pioneers well in adapting to their new environments. The first settlers to Howard County brought with them the tenets of Christianity in its many divisions. Adherents of the Methodist Episcopalian church were the first religious group to begin formal gatherings in the area. They met, as did many of the first religious settlers, in private homes; the first documented meetings occurred in 1841 at a cabin a few miles west of Kokomo's later location. David Foster hosted members of the same sect at his cabin, in 1844, where Reverend Jacob Colclazer conducted the service. The next group to organize was the Baptist church in 1847, followed shortly by the Disciples of Christ in 1851 and the Roman Catholics in 1859. Other religions represented in the next two decades were the Congregationalists (1863), the Friends (1865), and the African Methodists Episcopal church in 1873.<sup>11</sup>

The decade of the 1860s brought change to central Indiana communities in many ways. One significant negative influence on Howard County and Kokomo's economic future was the nearly complete cessation of railroad construction in Indiana during the war years, 1861-1865. While Kokomo's second railroad line, the Cincinnati & Chicago Railroad, reached the town in 1855, the third line, the Frankfort & Kokomo Railroad, did not reach Kokomo until 1874. According to one source, only 54 miles of new track was laid in Indiana during this war period.<sup>12</sup>

Another aspect of the war was the mobilization of many of Indiana's militia units that federalized to support the North's war effort. Kokomo and Howard County responded as did many other Hoosier contingents, as the nation, North and South, geared up for war. The first unit

<sup>9</sup> Morrow, *History of Howard County, Indiana*, 229; Blanchard, *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana*, 146; Odiet, *Sesquicentennial Commemorative Book*, 106 and 128.

<sup>10</sup> Booher, *Howard County: A Pictorial History*, 60; Kingman Brothers, *Combination Atlas Map*, 15.5.

<sup>11</sup> Kingman Brothers, *Combination Atlas Map*, 20; Booher, *Howard County: A Pictorial History*, 60.

<sup>12</sup> Richard S. Simons and Francis H. Parker, *Railroads of Indiana* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997), 21; Blanchard, *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana*, 54; Morrow, *History of Howard County, Indiana*, 214, 228, and 230.

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mustered in Howard County was the Howard Rifles, a company-sized unit that filled rapidly with volunteers, and shipped out to Indianapolis (Camp Morton) in mid-April 1861; this unit joined the Sixth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, a three-month enlistment regiment. A second company formed quickly from Howard County and eventually left Indiana for Kentucky as Company C, 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment (infantry). This regiment remained active for its full three-year requirement and mustered out in Indianapolis in 1864.<sup>13</sup> In the final accounting, Howard County men served in more than 35 different military organizations, as individuals and small units, throughout the entire term of the Civil War.<sup>14</sup>

The war profoundly affected those who fought and those who lost family members. On the home front, Kokomo and Howard County continued to demonstrate the hardy spirit of those left behind. By the early 1860s, the streets around the square had received a surface of macadam and stone from a quarry operating south of Wildcat Creek. Entrepreneurs T. Jay, who later developed a large addition in the district, and Rufus Dolman came to Kokomo in the early 1860s and established a meat-packing business on the east side of town. They would soon construct grain elevators near the Peru & Indianapolis depot to store and ship grain purchased from local farmers. A steam-powered flouring mill (the first in the area) located near the depot and was soon followed by another near Jefferson and Indiana Streets.<sup>15</sup>

The 1860s also witnessed the beginning of gravel road development throughout the county that eventually became the county road system. Between 1869 and 1883, the county commissioners approved and supervised the construction of 10 gravel roads that crisscrossed the county. These roads carried people and goods among the various settlements in Howard County and outside the county. The average cost of these roads hovered around the \$12,000.00 mark but obviously, shorter stretches were less expensive and the longer more expensive.<sup>16</sup>

Agriculture remained primary in the economic mix that supported Kokomo's growth but by the late 1870s, manufacturers of various items recognized the efficiency of placing their factories along one of the railroads that either passed near or through the town. The three railroads servicing Kokomo and vicinity carried consumer items from as far away as Chicago and the Great Lake ports to the east and shipped out meat and other local items such as corn and wheat on their return trips. By 1875, service by these railroads made Kokomo a transportation hub for the entire region.<sup>17</sup>

The discovery of natural gas late in the 1880s would change the direction of economic development in central Indiana and accelerate the rate of growth of manufacturing endeavors in the county. Kokomo and many of its sister cities in the region would never be the same. At this time in the nineteenth century, Howard County had a largely agricultural economy. The discovery of natural gas near the town of Eaton, Indiana, led to the Gas Boom and stimulated explosive

<sup>13</sup> Morrow, *History of Howard County, Indiana*, 150-167

<sup>14</sup> Blanchard, *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana*, 112-113.

<sup>15</sup> Morrow, *History of Howard County, Indiana*, 214.

<sup>16</sup> Blanchard, *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana*, 74.

<sup>17</sup> Odiet, *Sesquicentennial Commemorative Book*, 128; Blanchard, *Counties of Howard and Tipton, Indiana*, 176.

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industrial growth throughout the region. Eaton's gas had actually been discovered in 1876, but the find was not exploited until natural gas had also been found in two other states creating booms in those states.<sup>18</sup> Almost overnight, drilling began in 11 East Central Indiana counties, including Howard. Real estate companies formed overnight and speculated in land at the edges of towns and cities, hoping to attract gas-fueled factories and new residents.<sup>19</sup>

Kokomo's first venture into the world of natural gas began in late 1886. In the fall of that year, two local businessmen, A.Y. Comstock and D.C. Spraker gathered together a group of subscribers (at \$100.00 apiece) to fund a well-drilling effort south of Kokomo on the A.F. Armstrong farm. In early October, the drilling rig reached a depth of 900 feet and natural gas spewed from the well-head. Ironically, earlier attempts to create interest in drilling for oil in the local vicinity met with lukewarm responses from investors until the well in Eaton proved that that resource was present in massive quantities and attainable at minimum depths.<sup>20</sup>

The Howard County natural gas discovery near Kokomo impacted the community almost immediately. In early 1887, local entrepreneur J.M. Leach built a new brick kiln just south of Wildcat Creek in anticipation of future material needs for commercial and residential buildings. The Kokomo Natural Gas & Oil Company formed to furnish the natural gas needs of factories and homes. Initially, the company charged \$1.00 per month for each cook stove in a house and \$1.50 for the first heater with a reduced price of \$.75 for each additional heater. Local boosters rapidly got into the act to entice new business to the town with the "Citizens Free Gas Line for Factories Only" organization whose purpose was to provide free land and gas to businesses agreeing to move to Kokomo or to start a new enterprise. In June 1887, Edward Sweeney, the future president of the Globe Stove & Range Company, drilled a new well on the Schrader Farm just outside the city limits. The Kokomo Strawboard Company and the Kokomo Window Glass Company jumped on the free land/gas bandwagon and became two of the city's earliest manufacturing entities.<sup>21</sup> While many of these first factories dealt principally with glass products, by 1890, a more varied range of factories were operating or under construction in and around the community. A roster of names of those companies taking advantage of the free gas and land policy includes the Rockford Bit Company, the Kokomo Canning Works, the Standard Motor Company, Kokomo Furniture Manufacturing, and the Kokomo Wood Enameling Company.<sup>22</sup>

One of the town's primary industrialists was Monroe Seiberling. After starting the Kokomo Strawboard Company, Seiberling expanded his business interests to the manufacture of glass at the Diamond Plate Glass Company in 1888. Seiberling's factory was the first of its kind west of the Allegheny Mountains. Included among his business ventures in Indiana were a tinplate company in Elwood, Indiana; an insulated wire company in Jonesboro, Indiana; and a

<sup>18</sup> James A. Glass and David Kohrman, *The Gas Boom of East Central Indiana* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005), 7.

<sup>19</sup> James A. Glass, "The Gas Boom in East Central Indiana," *Indiana Magazine of History* 96 (December 2000), 314.

<sup>20</sup> Morrow, *History of Howard County, Indiana*, 233-235.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. 232-241; Booher, *Howard County: A Pictorial History*, 75.

<sup>22</sup> G. W. H. Kemper, ed., *A Twentieth Century History of Delaware County, Indiana*, Vol. 1 (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1908), 153; Glass, 325-26; Booher, *Howard County: A Pictorial History*, 75.



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land development company in Gas City, Indiana. After a merger of his Diamond Plate Glass Company with Pittsburg Plate Glass, Seiberling and his family moved to Peoria, Illinois, to start another company, the Peoria Rubber and Manufacturing Company, a maker of rubber tires.<sup>23</sup>

The physical skeleton (streets, alleys, and house lots) of the Old Silk Stocking district is the result of plats established over a period of 36 years. Beginning in 1853 and ending in 1889, the six largest additions platted in the district account for ninety percent of the area within its boundaries. Numerous smaller additions, one numbering only four lots, account for the remaining ten percent. The lot size in each of these six additions is either 60- or 66-feet wide and the depth varies slightly in some of the additions but generally speaking the lots are 120-feet deep and terminate in 12- or 16-feet-wide alleys. The east-west streets are uniformly 60-feet wide and the north-south streets are 40-feet wide. There was no explanation of the difference in width in any of the plats reviewed. The Columbus & Ironton Addition, platted in 1889 is the largest with 80 lots and occupies the southwest corner of the district. The plat included a notation that the circular park at the intersection of Lindsay and Superior Streets was "donated for public use." Other than the notation just described none of the texts accompanying the survey descriptions included restrictions or other caveats. The smallest of the large additions, only 12 lots, was the Haskett Grove Addition that was platted in 1888. Carved out of the original Haskett Grove land parcel, the addition totals 3.1 acres and covered an area directly east of the parcel that became the home of the Seiberling Mansion.<sup>24</sup>

Two of the premier homes in the district are the Elliott House and the Seiberling Mansion, both built on a land parcel once known as Haskett's Grove. Always one to be in the forefront of events, Seiberling announced his success to the world when he built a magnificent home on a 1.5 acre plot of land purchased from D.C. Spraker in 1889. West of downtown Kokomo, the mansion was designed by architect Arthur LaBelle from Marion, Indiana in a combination of the Neo-Jacobean and Romanesque Revival architectural styles. Seiberling's mansion was built by Ike V. Smith at a cost of approximately \$50,000.00. After the Seiberling family moved to Peoria, Illinois, the mansion came under the ownership of numerous individuals and in 1946, it was purchased by Indiana University to be used for classrooms. In 1965, Indiana University vacated the mansion and moved to its Kokomo regional campus. In 1972, the mansion was leased by the county and became the Howard County Historical Museum and home to the county historical society.<sup>25</sup>

The Elliott House, located immediately west of the Seiberling Mansion, originally belonged to another local businessman Marc Williams who built the house circa 1889, prior to the Elliott family occupancy in 1890. Mathew P. Elliott, a professional engineer from England, immigrated to Kokomo to build Seiberling's Diamond Plate Glass in the 1890s. After various job assignments in other cities, Elliott returned to Kokomo to work as an engineer at the Haynes Automobile Company. Severely injured under strange circumstances during a business trip to

<sup>23</sup> Sections 7 and 8, National Register Nomination—Seiberling Mansion, 1971;

<sup>24</sup> Howard County, Office of the Recorder, Plat Books 1 and 2, passim.

<sup>25</sup> Mary E. Harnish and Manfred G. Wright, *Monroe Seiberling's Mansion* (Kokomo: Howard County Historical Society, 1973), 1-5 and 10.

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Marion, Indiana, on 17 July 1919, Elliott died from his injuries the next day. Designed in the popular Queen Anne style at the time of construction, the house was redesigned by a subsequent owner in the late 1920s in the then-popular Tudor style and remains an outstanding example of that style to this day.<sup>26</sup>

Monroe Seiberling and Mathew P. Elliott were not the only movers-and-shakers busy in Kokomo in the 1890s. A team of automobile innovators, Elwood Haynes and brothers Edgar and Elmer Apperson, were hard at work in the early 1890s developing a gasoline-powered "horse-less carriage." The Apperson brothers joined with him in 1893-94 and the first car came out of the Apperson's Riverside Machine Works in mid-1894. On 4 July 1894 their joint effort made a successful trip on Pumpkinvine Pike at the unheard of speed of seven mile-per-hour. The trio formed the Haynes-Apperson Automobile Company and produced various models of passenger cars until the Apperson brothers left the original company in 1902 to start their own enterprise, the Apperson Brothers Automobile Company. The brothers produced cars well into the 1910s and at one time offered three or four different models including a seven-passenger touring car. Neither the Apperson Brothers nor Elwood Haynes lived in the district.<sup>27</sup>

Elwood Hynes had more to offer than just his desire to build the first gasoline-powered car. An inventor to the core, Haynes held a patent on stainless steel and invented Stellite, an alloy metal that became a standard in industrial processes and manufactured products that required wear-resistant or high-temperature applications. A non-magnetic and non-corrosive cobalt alloy, Stellite typically found use in valves and valve seats in automobile engines, modern jet engine turbine blades, and wear-resistant welding operations. Although many variations of the formula first known as Stellite exist today, the success of the alloy metal rests firmly on Elwood Haynes' shoulders.<sup>28</sup>

Review of the *Census of Manufactures* for 1905 and 1914 offers an explanation for how workers in and around Kokomo were earning their wages that supported commercial activities in the community such as the grocers, tailors, meat markets, doctors, etc. More importantly, this review provided some insight to the sources of income that funded the purchase of many homes in the district. The 1905 *Census of Manufactures* addressed Indiana in its entirety but some inferences can be drawn from these total figures relative to Kokomo's industrial growth in two very important industries. In the automobile body and parts category, Indiana had 96 establishments engaged in this particular infant industry. A comment in the summary of the report noted, "The largest percentage of increase in the value of products [in this category in Indiana] is shown in Kokomo and was due chiefly to the increased activity in... glass and foundry and machine shop activities." The glass factories and the Haynes-Apperson automobile endeavors

<sup>26</sup> Pamphlet, *The Sexton Tales: Reliving History at Kokomo's Crown Point Cemetery* (Kokomo: Howard County Historical Society, 2004) n.p. At the Stan Mohr Library, Howard County Historical Society, 1219 West Sycamore Street, Kokomo, Indiana.

<sup>27</sup> Pamphlet, *Apperson Six, 1916* in Clipping Files – Howard County at the Indiana Historical Society; Elwood Haynes and Haynes-Apperson @ [wikipedia.org/wiki/Elwood\\_Haynes](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Elwood_Haynes) and [wikipedia.org/wiki/Haynes-Apperson](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Haynes-Apperson), 28 December 2007.

<sup>28</sup> Booher, *Howard County: A Pictorial History*, 80 and 168; Pamphlet, *Apperson Six 1916* in Clipping Files – Howard County at the Indiana Historical Society.

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loomed large in the economy of the city. By 1914, the *Census of Manufactures* notes a reduction in the automobile sector of individual manufacturers but the number of workers, working 54-60 hours per week, increased from 816 in 1904 to 7,219 in 1914. Kokomo shared in this stable economy as did other towns in central Indiana. While the number of glass factory employees in Indiana decreased from 12,020 to 9,390 between 1904 and 1914, factories such as Pittsburg Plate Glass provided another stable element in this economy. Kokomo's average number of wage earners increased from 1,917 in 1904 to 3,289 in 1914, an indicator of a strong economy and an increasingly affluent community.<sup>29</sup> Factory payrolls topped the ten-million-dollar mark in the last year of the same period and newspapers reported that 80 percent of the workers in the city owned their own houses.<sup>30</sup>

Industrial growth in the 1890s and well into the 1910s spawned other commercial and construction activity that accelerated Kokomo's rate of growth and provided steady work for thousands of Hoosiers that used part of their wages to establish permanent homes in the community. Evidence of this steady increase in affluence among Kokomo's workers can be found in the large number of family homes constructed in the district during this period. A review of Sanborn maps and city directories, for a number of decades spanning the turn-of-the-century, clearly demonstrates the periods of development within the district by the sequence of platting the district's many additions and by the density of popular style choices of homes along the district streets.<sup>31</sup>

The census for 1910 and 1920 offer an opportunity to review the demographic profile of the district in regards to its "silk stocking heritage". As previously noted there is no doubt that some of the more affluent citizens in the community occupied homes in the district for many years. A quick look at some of the names associated with homes such as the Seiberling Mansion on West Sycamore Street, the Blacklidge House (he was an early judge) and the Apperson House on West Mulberry Street, and Jay House on West Taylor Street (Tom Jay was an early entrepreneur) reinforce the notion that the upper crust were highly visible in the district. However, the census enumerates many folks that would not be considered the upper crust like a bookkeeper, a lady running a rooming house, a grocer, a cabinet maker, an electrician, a wire drawer, and a common laborer – living their lives in the district. Factually, homes in the district sheltered a diverse amalgam of professional, skilled, and unskilled citizens, adding character to the district. The "silk stocking heritage" of the district is not diminished by the findings of census takers rather their work provides a human dimension (flesh) to the physical bones of the district, visible in the collection of resources.<sup>32</sup>

The stable economy of the city encountered a few bumps in the 1920s. Likely the largest bump was the closing of two of the city's signature and most enduring businesses – the Haynes Automobile Company and the Apperson Bothers Automobile Company – both closing their doors

<sup>29</sup> *US Census of Manufactures –1905*, 234-270; *US Census of Manufactures –1914*, 5-18, 393 and *Bulletins*, 6-14.

<sup>30</sup> "Kokomo Known as a Busy City," *Indianapolis Star*, 2 June 1919, 7.

<sup>31</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, *Kokomo*, 1885 to 1942.

<sup>32</sup> U.S Bureau of the Census, Decennial Census 1910 and 1920, *Kokomo, Indiana*, Rolls 356 and 438.

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in the mid-1920s. Reminiscent of the “free gas and land” days of the Gas Boom era, the Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with many of its members, gathered a “pot of \$50,000.00” to assist in moving expenses for businesses wanting to relocate to the empty plants left dormant by the departing car builders. Instead of cars, the industries brought in to fill the void produced radio cabinets and radios, phonographs, cosmetics, fine tableware, parts for six different automobiles, and machine for relining car brake shoes. The skilled industrial workers trained on the auto assembly lines of the past found new work on the same factory floors. Ten years later one of the survivors of the automobile industry consolidation turmoil of the past decades, Chrysler, bought up a portion of the old Haynes factory to produce transmissions and axle shafts. The factory-trained manpower base of Kokomo’s larger workforce continued to be a magnet for any industry looking for an eager community to support its needs.<sup>33</sup>

The early years of the 1930s brought some hard times to Kokomo and every other heavy-industry-dependent community in the nation. The dearth of homes built in the district from this period of time speaks to reduced financial resources in the community and the final occupation of lots in the additions south of West Sycamore Street. Kokomo’s future began to look brighter as the decade of the 1930s came to an end. The Chrysler plant opening in 1937 signaled a shift in the economic fortunes of the many workers. By that same year, the *Indianapolis News* was reporting that the industrial sector of Howard County’s economy surpassed the agricultural sector. Laborers were leaving local farms and other workers were moving into the community to fill the factory floors that had been critical to the county’s financial health for decades. On other fronts, the county celebrated the construction and occupation of a new courthouse in the downtown square in 1937 and the influx of new workers generated increases in the day-to-day world of many local businesses.<sup>34</sup>

The war years of the early 1940s brought new industry to the city. Kokomo workers went to war overseas and in the factories at home. Firms supporting the war effort included Continental Steel, Haynes Stellite, General Motors, and the Chrysler Corporation. When the war ended in August 1945, the workers employed by these huge companies, one resource reported, “...came out of the war tired... and well-padded with the stuff which pays the grocer.” Although some enterprises reduced their workforces after the war, many of the backbone industries shifted their production to peacetime market needs. By 1953, Kokomo’s factory floors were home to 19,156 workers and the community in general prospered through the final years of the decade.<sup>35</sup>

In summary, the Old Silk Stocking Historic District contains a collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century buildings that reflect significant change in the streetscapes of the neighborhood both in architectural style and number of residences. Many of the late-nineteenth century homes retain their integrity and offer the present-day viewer a snapshot of the

<sup>33</sup> “Kokomo Draws New Industries and Seeks More,” *Indianapolis Star*, 13 July 1927, 1-2; “Chrysler to Open Plant at Kokomo,” *Indianapolis Star*, 18 May 1937, 1.

<sup>34</sup> “Industries Gain In Howard County,” *Indianapolis News*, 5 October 1937, n.p.

<sup>35</sup> “Kokomo Looks to Future with Full Confidence,” *Indianapolis Times*, 5 June 1945, 5; “Steel-Fabricating City Expanded in Wartime,” *Indianapolis Times*, 20 March 1949, 6; “Kokomo Factory Jobs Hit Record 19,156,” *Indianapolis News*, 22 June 1953, 4.

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neighborhoods in the past. The more modern early-twentieth-century homes like the American Foursquare, Craftsman, and bungalow houses scattered around the district call to mind the prosperous years of the community and mark the final chapter in the development of the many additions that are included in the district. After more than 100 years, the Old Silk Stocking Historic District charms the casual observer but preserves within its boundaries, a living record of an integral part of the greater Kokomo community's heritage.

**Architectural Summary**

As Kokomo's economic growth resulted in new factories and steady jobs, the clerks and entrepreneurs of this developing industrial economy established their homes along Taylor, Mulberry, Walnut, and Sycamore Streets. These middle-and-upper-class families showed their preferences for broad streets shaded by growing trees and they expressed their new economic status in their choices of architectural style for the new residences.

The earliest house in the district is the pre-Gas Boom building is the Lindsay House at 520 West Mulberry Street. Built in 1848-1849, the façade of the vernacular brick I-House includes modest Federal refinements. The last of a style that surely was common in Kokomo's early years this particular house is now acknowledged as the oldest in the city. Well before the boom years of the late 1880s and early 1890s, Kokomo had achieved a measure of importance as a main rail center and the county seat. Homes like the Haskett House at 524 West Sycamore and the house at 314 West Walnut reflect post-Civil War choices by their owners. The Haskett House is notable for its unusual Second Empire style features such the window hoods that break the cornice line and its double bowed-shaped porch. The house at 314 West Walnut retains much of its original architectural features like the wooden Italianate porch and the characteristic narrow windows.

Understandably, the majority of Kokomo residents associate the Old Silk Stocking moniker with the district's many fine Queen Anne homes. These wooden and brick mansions from the boom years in the last two decades of the nineteenth century capture the comparatively sudden upswing in the economic fortunes of Kokomo citizenry resulting from the discovery natural gas and the evolution of the manufacturing base that would sustain the community for many decades. The houses at 529 West Taylor, 622 West Mulberry, 538 Taylor, and 618 West Walnut are some of the best examples in the district and in town. Each house is an individual variation of the Queen Anne recipe: two-story, asymmetrical massing, towers or bays, rambling wooden porches, and various forms of wooden ornamentation or siding materials. More modest, middle-class cottages, dating from the same period, are found throughout the district. Of course, no Kokomo house exemplifies the wealth and power of this era like the Seiberling mansion, with its exuberant brick and stone architecture.

Some of the homes located in the Old Silk Stocking district challenge efforts to categorize them into any specific architectural style but even these examples showcase the skill and craftsmanship of the community's builders. The house at 814 West Mulberry may reflect an eclectic collection of someone's ideas of what they like rather than research in some pattern book of the period. For example, its porch features a dramatic, flared roofline juxtaposed with a conservatively-styled colonnade of wooden Tuscan columns with railing. The massive

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dormer/gable with vertical board and picket-butt-end siding, a large bank of multi-paned windows, and the ornamental bargeboard and truss were inspired by Queen Anne architecture. The variegated slate roof adds to the picturesque qualities of the home. Any description of the house at 511 West Taylor would likely included the word "staid" if the home were compared to other period homes in the district. Its cubical massing and restraint presage the American Foursquare and Colonial Revival styles popular in the early decades of the twentieth century. However, the builder's choice of shingle in the gable end and a large traditional porch are very much in keeping with the late Queen Anne/Free Classic period styling. The same general remarks apply to the home at 917 West Sycamore, an otherwise traditional Foursquare distinguished by a front gable end with wood shingles and a diminutive Palladian window.

During the second decade of the twentieth century, the rise of Arts & Crafts-inspired styles and types swept away the architectural excesses of the Victorian period. Kokomo's architects and builders got in step with the new trend aimed at simplicity and their efforts are visible in much of the housing in the Old Silk Stocking neighborhood. The two major housing styles of the movement were the American Foursquare and the bungalow in all its variations. Without reverting to past excesses in architectural detail of earlier times, Kokomo's builders knew how to design a simple house that projects the prosperity and stability that one might find in the home of a successful businessman. The house at 204 Kingston Road shows through its scale, refinement of detail, and the materials used that it is a showcase of the Craftsman bungalow style. Clerks and their families might have settled for something along the lines of the bungalows lining the 1000 and 1100 blocks of West Superior — solid, frame bungalows with brick-piered porches, simple interiors, and modern amenities like central heating, electric service, and indoor plumbing.

The district contains many good examples of the American Foursquare style. Common to the style is the cubical/rectangular core with large porches and simple detailing; familiar to builders and readily repeated in many variations. The house at 819 West Sycamore is a wood frame example whose builder incorporated exotic touches like the star-shaped Roman fret muntins in the upper sashes of the window units. The flaring pitch of the roofline suggests inspiration from the old Orient and Japanese or Chinese influences are often seen in the Arts & Crafts styling of many objects, including buildings. The district includes a number of intriguing variations of the Foursquare type like the brick exterior and tile roof of the home at 531 West Mulberry and in the multi-family housing in the Foursquare/Craftsman format in the home at 423-425 West Walnut.

Kokomo continued to enjoy steady employment and growth in the post World War I period. The return to revival architecture seems to have come full circle in the district. The stalwart Colonial Revival brick design of the home at 530 West Sycamore, that was built around 1920, easily shares the neighborhood stage with the earliest known house in the district at 520 West Mulberry. Movers and shakers continued to enter the district and build homes that expressed their upper class status in a visible, physical manner. A fine example of this upscale demonstration is the Kautz home at 600 West Sycamore that was built circa 1920. Its richly defined classicism, executed in brick and Indiana limestone, communicates the status of its owners just as well as the more showy 1890s neighbors.

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The district continued to be a desirable place to live long after the Gas Boom was a fading memory. While out of character in architectural style with much of the district resources some of the houses in the 1200 block of Maple still show that families sought the convenient location and the stability the Old Silk Stocking area offers, well into the middle of the twentieth century.

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**Section 10 - Geographical Data**

**Boundary Description**

From the start point at the northeast corner of the intersection of West Taylor and North Wabash Streets proceed north along the east curb of North Wabash Street to the alley north of 820-822 West Taylor Street, turn east and proceed along the alley to its intersection with the west curb of North Indiana Street; turn south and proceed along the west curb to its intersection with the north curb of West Taylor Street; turn east, cross North Indiana Street and proceed along the north curb of West Taylor Street to its intersection with the west property line of 620-622 North Taylor Street; turn north and proceed along the property line to its intersection with the east/west alley between West Jackson and West Taylor Streets; turn east and proceed along the alley to its intersection with the west curb of North Webster Street; turn south and proceed along the west curb of North Webster Street to its intersection with the north curb of West Taylor Street; cross West Taylor Street to its south curb; turn east and cross North Webster Street and continue along the south curb of West Taylor Street to its intersection with the west curb of North Armstrong Street; turn south and proceed along the west curb to its intersection with the north curb of West Mulberry Street; cross West Mulberry Street and enter the north/south alley between North Washington and North Webster Street; continue south along the alley to its intersection with the east/west alley between West Mulberry and West Walnut Streets; turn east and proceed along the alley to its intersection with the east property line of 314 West Walnut Street; turn south and continue along the property line to its intersection with the north curb of West Walnut Street; cross West Walnut Street and proceed south along the east property line of 313 West Walnut Street to its intersection with the east/west alley between West Walnut and West Sycamore Streets; turn west and proceed along the alley to the east property line of 412 West Sycamore; turn south and proceed along the property line to its intersection with the north curb of West Sycamore Street; cross West Sycamore Street, turn east and proceed approximately 100 feet along the south curb of west Sycamore Street to its intersection with the east property line of 403-405 West Sycamore Street; turn south and proceed along the property to its intersection with the rear property line of 403-405 West Sycamore Street; turn west and proceed along the rear property lines of the addresses 403-405 to 717 West Sycamore Street to their intersection with the east curb of South Indiana Street; cross South Indiana Street and continue along the rear property lines of addresses 809 to 919-921 West Sycamore Street to their intersection with the rear property line of 114 South McCann Street; turn south and proceed along the property line to its intersection with the north curb of West Superior Street; cross West Superior Street and enter the north/south alley between South McCann and South Indiana Street; proceed south along the alley to its intersection with south property line of 304 South McCann Street; turn southwest and proceed along the south property line of 304 South McCann Street to its intersection with the east curb of South McCann Street; cross South McCann Street to the west curb and its intersection with the south property lines of addresses 1007 to 1107 Maple Street to their intersection with the east property line 330 Kingston Road; turn south and proceed along the east property line of 330 Kingston Road to its intersection with the south property line of the same address; turn southwest and proceed along the south property line of 330 Kingston Road to its intersection with the east curb of Kingston Road; turn north and proceed along the east curb to its intersection with

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**

**Continuation Sheet — Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Howard County,  
Indiana**

Section 10

Page 30

the centerline of the driveway for 316 Kingston Road; turn west and cross Kingston Road to its west curb and intersect with the rear property lines of addresses 1201 to 1229 Maple Street; proceed along these rear property lines to their intersection with the east curb of South Phillips Street; turn north and proceed along the east curb to its intersection with the south curb of West Superior Street; cross West Superior Street and continue along the east curb to the south curb of West Sycamore Street; cross West Sycamore Street and continue north along the east curb to its intersection with the rear property line of 1234 West Sycamore Street; turn east and proceed along the property line to its intersection with the west property line of 1216-1218 West Sycamore Street; turn north and proceed along the west property line to its intersection with the south curb of West Walnut Street; turn east and proceed along the south curb to its intersection with the west curb of North McCann Street; turn north and cross West Walnut Street and continue north along the west curb to its intersection with the rear property line of 1005 West Mulberry Street; turn west and proceed along the rear property line to its intersection of the west property line of 1005 West Mulberry Street; turn north and proceed along the property line to its intersection with the south curb of West Mulberry Street; cross West Mulberry Street and continue north along the west property line of 1002 West Mulberry Street to its intersection with the east/west alley between West Taylor and West Mulberry Streets; turn east and proceed along the alley to its intersection with the west curb North McCann Street; cross North McCann Street and continue east along the alley to its intersection with the west curb of North Wabash Street; cross North Wabash Street to its east curb and turn north; proceed north along the curb to its intersection with the south curb of West Taylor Street; cross West Taylor Street and close on the start point at the northeast corner of West Taylor and North Wabash Streets.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary for the Howard County Courthouse Square Historic District incorporates the limits of much of the original plat and a collection of buildings that reflect the period of Kokomo's greatest commercial growth.

**Resources – Old Silk Stocking  
Historic District**

<u>Address</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>NC</u>
W. Taylor Street		
1. 820-822	X	
2. 816-818	X	
3. 814	X	
4. 808		X
6. 620-622		X
7. 614		X
8. 610	X	
9. 606	X	
10. 604	X	
11. 538	X	
12. 528	X	
13. 522	X	
14. 518	X	
15. 512	X	
16. 508	X	
17. 502	X	
18. 821	X	
19. 815	X	
20. 809	X	
21. 807	X	
22. 723	X	
23. 715	X	
24. 711	X	
25. 707	X	
26. 703	X	
27. 627	X	
28. 619	X	
29. 615	X	
30. 611	X	
31. 605		X
32. 603	X	
33. 539	X	
34. 533	X	
35. 529	X	
36. 521	X	
37. 515	X	
38. 511	X	
39. 421	X	
W. Mulberry Street		
40. 1002	X	
41. 920	X	
42. 914		X

<u>Address</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>NC</u>
43. 908		X
44. 902	X	
45. 822		X
46. 814	X	
47. 718	X	
48. 704	X	
49. 700	X	
50. 622	X	
51. 618	X	
52. 612	X	
53. 606	X	
54. 540	X	
55. 538	X	
56. 532		X
57. 528		X
58. 524	X	
59. 520	X	
60. 516		X
61. 508		X
62. 500	X	
63. 420	X	
64. 414	X	
65. 408	X	
66. 400		X
67. 1005	X	
68. 921	X	
69. 917	X	
70. 911	X	
71. 905	X	
72. 821	X	
73. 801	X	
74. 721	X	
75. 715	X	
76. 709	X	
77. 705	X	
78. 701	X	
79. 623-625	X	
80. 621	X	
81. 617		X
82. 615	X	
83. 609	X	
84. 607		X
85. 535		X
86. 531	X	
87. 525	X	
88. 505	X	

Address	C	NC
89. 421	X	
90. 419	X	
91. 417	X	
92. 409		X
93. 405	X	
94. 401	X	
W. Walnut Street		
95. 1111	X	
96. 1107	X	
97. 1025	X	
98. 1017	X	
99. 1003	X	
100. 920	X	
101. 918	X	
102. 914	X	
103. 908	X	
104. 900	X	
105. 820-822	X	
106. 816	X	
107. 720-728	X	
108. 716	X	
109. 710-708	X	
110. 704		X
111. 700		X
112. 620		X
113. 618	X	
114. 610-614	X	
115. 606	X	
116. 600		X
117. 532	X	
118. 522	X	
119. 518	X	
120. 516	X	
121. 420	X	
122. 412		X
123. 410	X	
124. 406-408	X	
125. 320	X	
126. 314	X	
127. 300		X
128. 921	X	
129. 915	X	
130. 911	X	
131. 905		X
132. 827-829		X
133. 821		X
134. 817		X
135. 811		X
136. 809	X	

Address	C	NC
137. 807		X
138. 719		X
139. 715	X	
140. 705	X	
141. 703	X	
142. 701		X
143. 621	X	
144. 613		X
145. 607	X	
146. 601	X	
147. 535	X	
148. 525	X	
149. 517	X	
150. 507	X	
151. 503	X	
152. 423-425	X	
153. 419	X	
154. 417		X
155. 405	X	
156. 401		X
157. 321	X	
158. 313	X	
W. Sycamore Street		
159. 1234	X	
160. 1228	X	
161. 1224	X	
162. 1216-1218 & CH	X	
163. 1200 & CH	National Register	
164. 1110	X	
165. 1106	X	
166. 1104	X	
167. 1022	X	
168. 1016	X	
169. 1012		X
170. 1010	X	
171. 1004	X	
172. 922-930		X
173. 914		X
174. 912	X	
175. 904	X	
176. 824		X
177. 818	X	
178. 810	X	
179. 806		X
180. 800	X	
181. 718	X	
182. 712	X	
183. 706		X
184. 700-702	X	

Address	C	NC
185. 620	X	
186. 614		X
187. 600	X	
188. 534		X
189. 530	X	
190. 524	X	
191. 516	X	
192. 502	X	
193. 422-424		X
194. 416		X
195. 412	X	
196. 1235	X	
197. 1225	X	
198. 1221	X	
199. 1217		X
200. 1215	X	
201. 1207	X	
202. 1117	X	
203. 1115	X	
204. 1109	X	
205. 1105		X
206. 1027	X	
207. 1023	X	
208. 1019		X
209. 1011	X	
210. 1007	X	
211. 919-921	X	
212. 917	X	
213. 911	X	
214. 907	X	
215. 901	X	
216. 825	X	
217. 819	X	
218. 809	X	
219. 717		X
220. 713		X
221. 707		X
222. 703	X	
223. 625	X	
224. 619		X
225. 615		X
226. 611-613		X
227. 607		X
228. 601		X
229. 537	X	
230. 535	X	
231. 531		X
232. 523		X
233. 515		X

Address	C	NC
234. 511	X	
235. 503		X
236. 421	X	
237. 415	X	
238. 403-405		X
N. McCann Street		
239. 113-115	X	
240. 117		X
241. 114		X
242. 210	X	
243. 212		X
S. McCann Street		
244. 110		X
245. 111	X	
246. 114	X	
247. 115	X	
248. 118	X	
249. 121	X	
250. 122	X	
251. 125	X	
252. 201	X	
253. 204	X	
254. 208	X	
255. 209		X
256. 210		X
257. 211	X	
258. 212		X
259. 215		X
260. 220	X	
261. 223	X	
262. 225	X	
263. 304	X	
N. Wabash Street		
264. 212		X
265. 310	X	
N. Indiana Street		
266. 111	X	
267. 115		X
268. 333		X
269. 409		X
270. 116	X	
271. 210	X	
272. 212		X

<u>Address</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>NC</u>
N. Webster Street		
273. 209	X	
274. 309	X	
275. 321		X
276. 110	X	
277. 210		X
278. 212	X	
279. 306	X	
280. 312		X

#### Kingston Road

281. 102	X	
282. 111	X	
283. 112	X	
284. 114	X	
285. 115	X	
286. 119	X	
287. 120		X
288. 121	X	
289. 204 & G	X	
290. 214		X
291. 217	X	
292. 220	X	
293. 224		X
294. 225		X
295. 304		X
296. 316	X	
297. 324	X	
298. 330		X

#### Superior Street

299. 1234	X	
300. 1229		X
301. 1225	X	
302. 1224	X	
303. 1223	X	
304. 1222	X	
305. 1221	X	
306. 1220	X	
307. 1219	X	
308. 1218	X	
309. 1216	X	
310. 1215		X
311. 1209		X
312. 1201	X	
313. 1119		X
314. 1118	X	
315. 1115		X
316. 1112		X

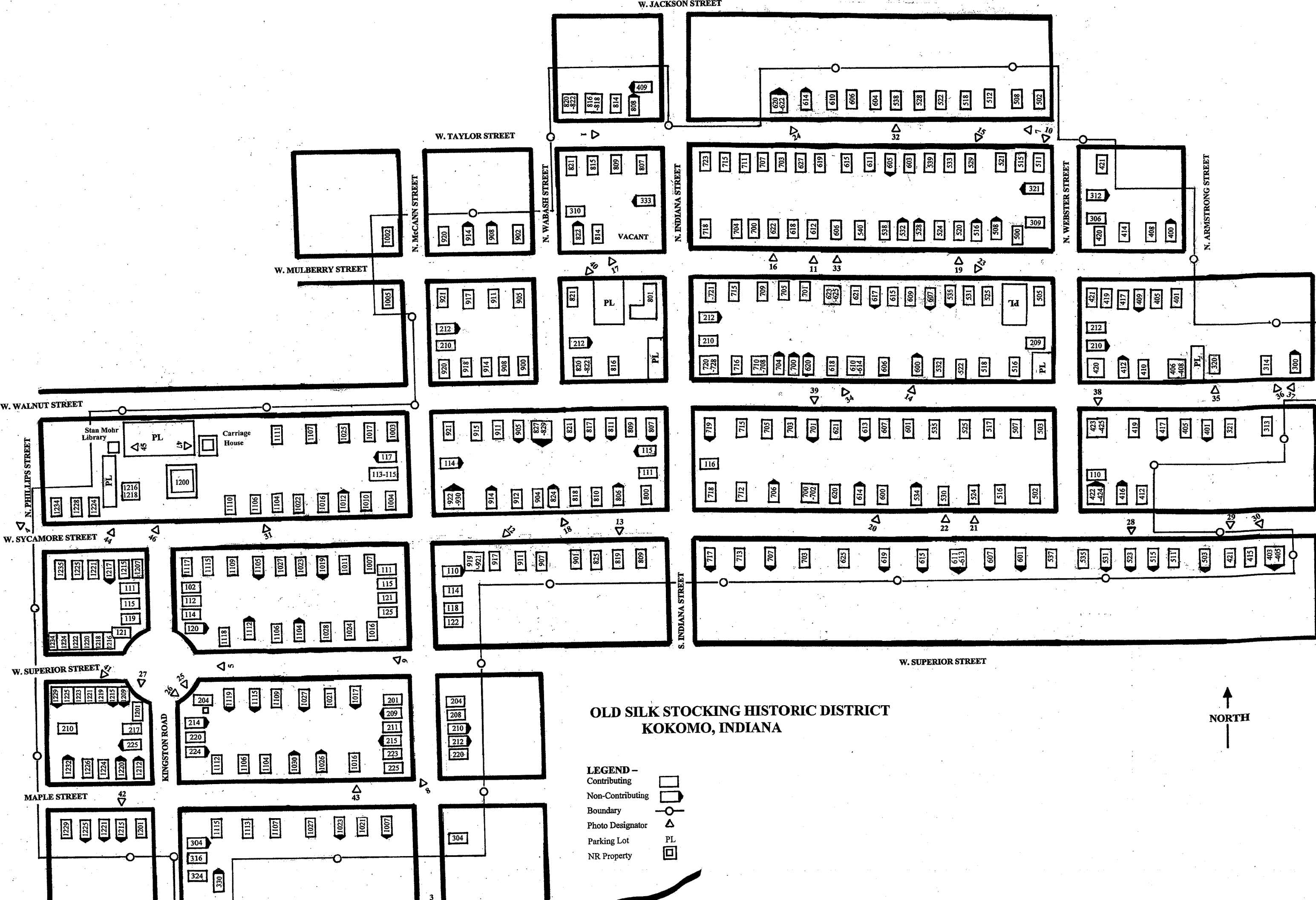
<u>Address</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>NC</u>
317. 1109	X	
318. 1106	X	
319. 1104		X
320. 1028	X	
321. 1027		X
322. 1024	X	
323. 1021	X	
324. 1017		X
325. 1016	X	

#### Maple Street

326. 1232		X
327. 1229	X	
328. 1226	X	
329. 1225		X
330. 1224	X	
331. 1221		X
332. 1220		X
333. 1215		X
334. 1212		X
335. 1201	X	
336. 1115	X	
337. 1113	X	
338. 1112	X	
339. 1107	X	
340. 1106	X	
341. 1104	X	
342. 1030		X
343. 1027	X	
344. 1026		X
345. 1023		X
346. 1021	X	
347. 1016	X	
348. 1007		X

#### South Phillips Street

349. 210	X	
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## Photograph Record

Common Information: Old Silk Stocking Historic District

Kokomo, Indiana

John Warner

Dates: 12 December 2007, 23 December 2007, and 29 January 2008

CD: 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46202

1. Looking east along West Taylor Street, the north boundary for the district.
2. Looking south along the east boundary and outside the district.
3. Looking south along McCann Street outside the district and across Wildcat Creek. .
4. Looking west outside the district near the intersection of West Sycamore and North Phillips Street.
5. Looking west at the circle at the intersection of Kingston Road and Superior Street.
6. Looking east along the public trail near the south boundary on the north bank of Wildcat Creek.
7. Queen Anne Row along the 500-600 blocks of West Taylor Street.
8. American Foursquare homes along South McCann Street, looking northwest.
9. Bungalow homes along the north side of West Superior Street; looking west.
10. Looking south at 511 West Taylor Street; note the use of the wide brackets to accentuate the lower limits of the front gable and the dormer window unit.
11. Looking north at 612 West Mulberry; the narrowness of the window units is unusual for this style.
12. Looking southwest at 917 West Sycamore Street; note the Palladian-influenced window unit in the front gable.
13. The window units of this American Foursquare house at 819 West Sycamore Street have unusual glazing pattern; looking south.
14. The house at 600 West Walnut Street has lost all architectural integrity; looking southeast.
15. This Queen Anne house at 529 West Taylor Street has one of the highest degrees of integrity in the district; looking southwest.
16. While this Queen Anne home at 622 West Mulberry Street is in disrepair it too retains a high degree of integrity; looking north.
17. Looking northwest at 814 West Mulberry Street.
18. Looking northwest at a non-contributing house at 824 West Sycamore Street.
19. Looking north at 520 West Mulberry Street the oldest house in the district.
20. Looking northeast at 600 West Sycamore Street, one of the few Mediterranean Revival homes in the district.
21. The Haskett House at 524 West Sycamore Street is the only Second Empire residence in the district; looking north.
22. Looking northwest at 530 West Sycamore Street; this house was one of the first built on the Haskett property when it subdivided.
23. Looking southwest at 531 West Mulberry Street at one of the many American Foursquare homes in the district.
24. Looking northwest at a non-contributing home at 620-622 West Taylor Street.
- 25-26. Looking southwest at 204 Kingston Road, probably the best example of the style in the district, and its garage.
27. One of the few one-story homes with a pyramid roof, this house at 1201 West Superior Street is a good example of the style; looking south.
28. An early home in the district, the house at 523 West Sycamore Street has been altered significantly and no longer contributes to the district; looking south.
29. Looking south at 421 West Sycamore Street; note the double dormers in the front slope of the roof.

30. Looking southeast at 403-405 West Sycamore Street, an unusual double residence.
31. Looking northwest at 1106 West Sycamore Street with its two-story porch.
32. Looking north at 538 West Taylor Street. Note the tower and the half-timbering in the front gable.
33. Looking north at 606 West Mulberry Street.
34. This Queen Anne house at 618 West Walnut Street demonstrates the use of varied wall textures to add architectural interest to a home; looking northwest.
35. Sweeney Apartments is one of several in the district; looking north at 320 West Walnut Street.
36. Just east of Sweeney Apartments is one of the few Italianate homes in the district at 314 West Walnut Street; looking northwest.
37. This modern building at 300 West Walnut Street is an example of the encroachment of business along the east boundary; looking northeast.
38. A double residence at 423-425 West Walnut Street; looking south.
39. This modified garage at 701 West Walnut Street is non-contributing to the district; looking south.
40. The size of this massive front dormer on this house at 821 West Mulberry Street is unusual for this style; looking southwest.
41. Looking southwest at 1221 West Superior Street.
42. The age of this house at 1215 West Maple Street is outside the period of consideration for this district; looking south.
43. Looking north at 1016 West Maple Street.
- 44-45. Looking northeast at the Elliott House at 1216-1218 West Sycamore Street; looking west at the carriage house for the Elliott's which is now the Stan Mohr Library.
- 46-47. Looking northeast at the Seiberling Mansion at 1200 West Sycamore Street; looking east at the carriage house for the Seiberling Mansion.



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #1



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #10



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #12



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #15





Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #21



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #25



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #32



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #35





Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #36



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #38



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #40



Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photograph #45





Old Silk Stocking Historic District, Photo #46